Health dept claims major gains in crackdown on illegal drugs

Says 51 FIRs registered, 162 medical stores sealed, Rs12.8m fines collected in KP last year

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health department has claimed major gains in a clampdown on unlawful drug manufacturing and sale in the province last year.

In a report, the drug control and pharmacy department at the provincial Directorate General Health Services said that 51 FIRs were registered against those involved in unlawful drug sale and Rs12.825 million fine was collected from them through the courts of law.

The directorate also collected 12,292 suspected medicine samples last year and found 497 of them to be substandard, 226 spurious, 225 unregistered and 160 misbranded.

According to the report, sealed 162 medical stores last year for violating the law.

The merged and tribal districts have around 20,250 pharmacies.

The health directorate said that 12,292 medicine samples and medical devices were sent to the Drug Testing Laboratory for quality checking, while a dozen "special" raids were carried out, seizing unregistered, fake and counterfeit drugs in large quantities.

It said it referred a total of 2,447 cases of law violations to the Provincial Quality Control Board for action, with 637 later being sent to the drug court for decision. The court later decided 377 cases.

The health directorate said over 1,000 drug sale points were inspected in the province every month to ensure quality control and regulatory compliance in line with the Drug Act, 1976.

In the report submitted to the health secretary, the directorate said that with the help of 55 inspectors, it expedited inspections to ensure and implement the pharmaceutical jurisprudence in respect of sale, distribution and dispensing of drugs for public consumption as per the law.

According to it, therapeutic goods, including drugs, medicines, medical devices and alternative medicines are regulated under the Drugs Act, 1976, and Drug Regulatory of Pakistan Act, 2012.

The law empowers the federal government to issue drug manufacturing licences, register medicines, fix their prices and examine matters related to import and export of therapeutic goods.

However, Section 44 of the Drugs Act allows provinces to regulate drug sale and related matters through the prescribed rules.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Drugs Rules, 1982, (amended in 2017) are in force to deal with the affairs of therapeutic goods.

Health officials told *Dawn* that the department had introduced a new drug testing technology, Raman, to facilitate analysts to examine suspected medicines on the spot and save time and risks associated with raw material analysis.

They said prior to the introduction of the new technology in 2022, all suspected samples were tested with the help of traditional methods that consumed a lot of time.

The officials said that the new system helped test the quality of more and more medicines in the shortest possible time.

They said that Raman was a spectroscopic technique accepted both by the United States Pharmacopia Convention and European Pharmacopia.

The officials said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the first province to introduce the technology for drug testing.

They said the technology was already used abroad for raw material clearance and identification of narcotics at airports and borders.

The officials said that before the installation of new machines, they faced a lot of difficulties in obtaining the suspected pharmaceutical items from the market and testing them.

They, however, said the Raman technology helped inspectors find suspected drugs on the spot and test them in the laboratory.

Tirah jirga suspends talks with officials after abduction of tribal elder

KHYBER: Negotiations between a 24-member Tirah jirga and security officials were abruptly suspended for an indefinite time following the abduction of a local elder by terrorists on Saturday.

Sources in the valley told *Dawn* that Malak Islam Ghani of Malakdinkhel tribe was abducted by armed terrorists from the main road near Bagh Maidan Markaz.

The incident took place when the jirga of Tirah tribes was about to meet the security officials at the Bagh Brigade Headquarters to sort out modalities for families to vacate their houses and pave the way for a swift military operation in different parts of Tirah Valley.

They said that the jirga members immediately pulled out of the talks when they were informed about the abduction of the Malakdinkhel elder.

Expressing their anguish over the kidnapping, the jirga members contended that the incident had created unease in the region.

They demanded of the government to take effective steps for immediate recovery of the abducted elder, and warned that no further negotiations could be held till the safe recovery of Malak Islam Ghani.

Earlier, the 24-member jirga had, during a meeting with high-ranking security and administrative officials, agreed to start vacating the houses from January 5. It was also decided that every tribe would form a sub-committee to sort out the mechanism for vacating houses.

The jirga had also agreed in principle that every displaced family would be paid Rs155,000 while another Rs50,000 and Rs20,000 would be given to every family as monthly stipend and transport charges, respectively. — Correspondent

Mansehra schools, colleges sealed for holding classes in winter vacation

By Nisar Ahmad Khan

MANSEHRA: The district administration has sealed around a dozen private schools and colleges for holding classes despite the issuance of the winter vacation notification by the government due to the current cold wave across Hazara division.

"We cannot allow private educational institutions to play with the health of students in such harsh winter conditions, so several of them have been sealed for violating winter break orders," Assistant Commissioner (Central) Sana Fatima told reporters on Saturday.

A joint team of the district administration and police, led by Ms Fatima, conducted surprise visits to private schools and colleges and sealed around a dozen for holding regular classes during the winter vacation.

The provincial government had notified the closure of both public and private educational institutions across the province in both summer and winter zones in view of the intense cold wave that has swept across the province.

Since the start of snowfall earlier this week, high-altitude parts of Mansehra and the rest in the upper regions of Hazara Division have recorded temperatures as low as minus 12 degrees Celsius.

"Our crackdown on the violators of winter break orders will continue across Mansehra tehsil and other parts of the district," Ms Fatima warned.

She said the administration had sealed schools found in breach of official orders and that the action would continue to ensure all private institutions comply with the winter break notification in letter and spirit.

The assistant commissioner said that due to the severe cold wave and snowfall, the incidence of respiratory tract infections had increased significantly in the district.

She also urged parents not to send their children to schools and colleges during the winter break under the Summer and Winter Zone Policy.

WORK BEGINS: Authorities have launched work on the Bala-Bayari track for four-wheelers to promote tourism in the picturesque Manoor Valley.

"With the Mahandri-Bala Road carpeting road project already being executed under the provincial government's tourism exploration initiatives, we have started the construction of the Bala-Bayari track to ensure easy visitor access to the scenic Manoor Valley," MPA Munir Hussain Lughmani told reporters on Saturday.

He said that construction of the Bala-Bayari track would provide both tourists and the indigenous community direct access from the Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad Road to the natural attractions of Manoor Valley.

"Once the track is built, we will approach the provincial government for its blacktopping," he said.

Mr Lughmani said that before becoming the prime minister, Imran Khan visited Bayari in Manoor Valley and directed the PTI-led provincial government to declare the valley a natural masterpiece neighbouring the Kaghan Valley.

He said that the government had approved over Rs600 million for the 18-kilometre Mahandri-Bayari Road, but only six kilometres were completed earlier, while the remaining stretch was shelved.

"Work on the remaining 12 kilometres has now resumed, which will ensure improved access for both locals and tourists to the farthest points of the valley," he said.

The lawmaker added that land-related issues with the forest department, which had been creating hurdles in the smooth execution and blacktopping of the road, had also been resolved.

Residents hailed the project and said it would help end longstanding travel difficulties for residents while attracting tourists.

"Work on the six-kilometre road has been progressing slowly for a long time. Authorities should ensure speedy execution of the project," Sardar Shaukat said.

KP witnesses surge in tourist arrivals

By Sher Alam Shinwari

PESHAWAR: According to annual performance report by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KP-CTA), over 8000 foreign tourists visited different picnic spots compared to over 7000 foreign tourists in 2024, as more tourists visited Kumrat Valley, Galiyat, Booni/Mastuj, Kalash Valley /Garam Chasma, Narran/Kaghan and Swat Valley in 2025.

The number of domestic tourists stood at 12, 769,930 compared to last year influx of 20,618,162 in 2024.

According to the report issued by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority, more than 12.4 million tourists visited Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2025.

The number of foreign tourists exceeded 8,700. The majority of foreign tourists who visited KP's tourist spots belonged to China, Thailand, Poland, Italy and Japan.

In 2025, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) earned multiple prestigious awards, including the Best Tourism Authority Award at the EIPA International Awards and top honors at the AIPCTA Awards in Thailand.

Additionally, KPCTA won the PASHA Annual Award for Digital Government and Citizen Services.

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SN	Nomenclature of Post	No. of Position	Minimum Qualification	Minimum Experience	Max Age Limit (Years)
1.	**Assistant Manager Solid Waste Management (M-7)**	01	BE/BSc (Hons) in Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Water Engineering or any relevant degree obtained from HEC recognized University/Institute registered with PEC.	05 years post qualification relevant experience in reputable international, national, public, or private sector organization. Preference will be given to candidates with hands-on experience in similar like roles.	40
2.	**Assistant Manager Sewerage & Drainage (M-7)**	01	BE/BSc (Hons) in Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Water Engineering or any relevant degree obtained from HEC recognized University/Institute registered with PEC.	05 years post qualification relevant experience in reputable international, national, public, or private sector organization. Preference will be given to candidates with hands-on experience in similar like roles.	40
3.	**Assistant Manager Water Supply (M-7)**	01	BE/BSc (Hons) in Civil Engineering/Water Engineering/Hydrology or any relevant degree obtained from HEC recognized University/Institute registered with PEC.	05 years post qualification relevant experience in reputable international, national, public, or private sector organization. Preference will be given to candidates with hands-on experience in similar like roles.	40
4.	**Assistant Manager Procurement (M-7)**	01	BS/BBA (Hons) in Supply Chain, Management Science or BE/BSc Civil Engineering or any relevant degree obtained from HEC recognized University/Institute. Certification/Diploma in Supply chain /Public Procurement will be an added advantage.	05 years of post-qualification relevant experience in reputable international, national, public, or private sector organizations. Must have sound knowledge of KPPRA Rules and public procurement procedures. Preference will be given to candidates with hands-on experience in public procurement and contract management, particularly in similar roles.	40
5.	**Assistant Engineer (M-8)**	01	BE/BSc Civil Engineering or any relevant degree obtained from an HEC recognized University/Institute registered with PEC.	03 years post qualification relevant experience in reputable international, national, public, or private sector organization. Preference will be given to candidates with hands-on experience in similar like roles.	35
6.	**Account Officer (M-8)**	01	BBA/BS/M.Com/MBA/MSc in Accounting/Finance, CA/ACCA or any relevant degree obtained from HEC recognized University/Institute.	03 years post qualification relevant experience in reputable international, national, public, or private sector organization. Preference will be given to candidates with hands-on experience in similar like roles.	35
7.	**Finance Assistant (S-1)**	01	BS/BBA in Commerce/Account & Finance, M.Com, ACCA or any relevant degree obtained from HEC recognized University/Institute.	02 years post qualification relevant experience in reputable international, national, public, or private sector organization. Preference will be given to candidates with hands-on experience in similar like roles.	35
8.	**Store Keeper (S-1)**	01	BBA/B.Com/BSc or Equivalent qualification obtained from HEC Recognized University/Institute.	02 Years of relevant Experience with pruriency in inventory management and store operations from any reputable Public/private sector organization.	35

Terms & conditions:

1. All candidates will be provisionally allowed to appear in the ETEA screening test. However detailed scrutiny will be carried out by the appointing authority and if any candidate is found ineligible in any respect at any stage of the recruitment process, he/she will be disqualified by the Appointing Authority of WSSC Kohat.
2. All the candidates will be required to create profile on ETEA's website. After creating the profile and before applying/depositing fee for any post, such candidates will have to print E-Sahulat token from ETEA's website and get their CNIC No. verified from any NADRA E-Sahulat franchise (Kiosk). Without such verification, they will not be able to apply for any post.
3. Candidates qualifying the ETEA test shall subsequently be screened for relevance in terms of the eligibility criteria.
4. Interview call letters will be issued to short listed candidates only and an internal test may be conducted at the time of interview.
5. Unclaimed qualification and experience will not be accepted/considered, claimed qualification and experience without supporting documents/documented proofs will also be not accepted/considered.
6. It will be responsibility of candidates to provide valid equivalence certificate from HEC Pakistan along with application to justify their academic eligibility for the post applied for.
7. The candidates working in Government/Semi-Government bodies should apply through proper channel. Eligibility for the post to be applied for Civil/Government servants (if selected) or employee of any organization will resign from Civil/Govt service or from employment of any other organization. No lien or any such relief of any sort shall be acceptable.
8. Original documents should be produced at the time of interview.
9. Candidates should be eligible in all respects by the last date of receipt of the applications.
10. Incomplete applications and applications received after due dates will not be entertained.
11. Relaxation of age will NOT be admissible. Age will be calculated on the closing date for receipt of applications
12. Candidates intending to apply for more than one post shall apply separately for each post with separate fee.
13. Competent Authority reserves the right to cancel/reject any application without assigning any reason.
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15. Degree in-progress types of certificates will not be considered.
16. No TA/DA will be admissible for test/Interview.
17. WSSC Kohat is an equal opportunity employer.
18. Errors/Omissions in number of posts/positions are subject to rectification.

How to apply: -

1. Interested candidates may first visit www.etea.edu.pk and apply for the posts online.
2. After successful submission of online application, a prescribed online deposit slip (having token number, Project code & candidates' personal information) will be generated.
3. Take a printout of the generated deposit slip & deposit the prescribed test fee (nonrefundable) through Easypaisa app or Agent or at any branch of UBL Bank.
4. After successful fee submission, please keep the original deposit slip (candidate copy) having bank desired stamp with yourself and do not share it with anyone else.
5. After online apply, don't send documents/testimonials to ETEA office, copies of testimonials/ documents will however, be provided by the candidates who qualify the screening test, as and when required by the Appointing Authority for scrutiny purposes.
6. Availability of online Application Form on www.etea.edu.pk on 05th Jan 2026.
7. Last date for submission of online Application is 20th Jan 2026.
8. Candidates will be informed through SMS by ETEA to download and Print their Roll No. Slips from www.etea.edu.pk. Candidates are directed to do not give ported/converted mobile number.
9. Test Date, Time & Venue will be mentioned on Roll No. Slip.
10. No separate Call Letter will be issued to candidates for screening test through postal/courier means.

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WATER & SANITATION SERVICES COMPANY KOHAT
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